Complaints against CMD of STC

1364. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of complaints of atrocities/ harassment of SC/ST employees are pending against the CMD of STC:

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have got the complaints investigated by an independent authority;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) what action has been taken/Government propose to take against the CMD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (e) Earlier certain complaints against CMD, STC of harassment of certain SC/ST officials were received which were examined in the Ministry. The Government had got the matter investigated in consultations with Central Vigilance Commission, who in agreement with the Department, agreed to closure of the case since no evidence of harassment of SC/ST officials could be found after the investigation. The complaint against CMD, STC in the matter has since been closed. However, STC has recently received two such representations through National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes alleging usuages of derogatory remarks against SC/ST employees, against transfer and seeking out-of-turn promotion. The Commission had requested for the comments of STC on these complaints which have already been submitted.

New markets for tobacco

1365. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether problems of the tobacco industry have been studied;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to explore new markets for tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The Tobacco Board is continuously engaged in the task of studying the problems of the Indian Tobacco industry. The main problems affecting the sector at present are the impact of the international anti-smoking campaign and the increased competition for Indian exporters from countries such as Chine, Brazil and Zimbabwe and the trend of over-production in recent years.

(c) The steps taken to explore new markets include, *inter alia*, participation in international tobacco exhibitions and fairs, advertisement compaigns in international tobacco journals and organisation of trade delegations to and from important tobacco importing nations. During the current year, an Indian Tobacco delegation has visited Egypt, Turkey, Romania and Russia, while delegations from Morocco and Greece have visited India.

Transfer rules of STC

1366. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules/regulatios governing transfer of employees/ staff of STC, corporate office, New Delhi;

(b) whether as per the Memorandum of Settlement signed between Management and the Federation of STC employees union, transfer can be ordered only on request made by employees;

(c) if so, whether some transfer orders have been issued last month in utter violation of all norms/rules governing transfer;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take against the officer responsible for issuing illegal orders; and

(e) by when transfer orders would be revoked/cancelled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Employees, appointed in the Corporation are basically to be governed by the terms and conditions including transfer as per the appointment letter which *inter-alia* provides that both Managers as well as Staff are liable for transfer in any branch office/its subsidiaries. Transfer orders of Managers are issued as per the